



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/601,255	09/25/2000	Takeshi Hashimoto	450101-02196	9832

20999 7590 06/10/2004

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG
745 FIFTH AVENUE- 10TH FL.
NEW YORK, NY 10151

EXAMINER

GOLINKOFF, JORDAN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2174

DATE MAILED: 06/10/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/601,255

Applicant(s)

HASHIMOTO ET AL.

Examiner

Jordan S Golinkoff

Art Unit

2174

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 September 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,5,7,9,11,13-22,24,26,28,30,32 and 34-42 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,5,7,9,11,13-22,24,26,28,30,32 and 34-42 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 September 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. This application does not contain an abstract of the disclosure as required by 37

CFR 1.72(b). An abstract on a separate sheet is required.

The following guidelines illustrate the preferred layout for the specification of a utility application. These guidelines are suggested for the applicant's use.

Arrangement of the Specification

As provided in 37 CFR 1.77(b), the specification of a utility application should include the following sections in order. Each of the lettered items should appear in upper case, without underlining or bold type, as a section heading. If no text follows the section heading, the phrase "Not Applicable" should follow the section heading:

- (a) TITLE OF THE INVENTION.
- (b) CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS.
- (c) STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT.
- (d) INCORPORATION-BY-REFERENCE OF MATERIAL SUBMITTED ON A COMPACT DISC (See 37 CFR 1.52(e)(5) and MPEP 608.05. Computer program listings (37 CFR 1.96(c)), "Sequence Listings" (37 CFR 1.821(c)), and tables having more than 50 pages of text are permitted to be submitted on compact discs.) or
REFERENCE TO A "MICROFICHE APPENDIX" (See MPEP § 608.05(a). "Microfiche Appendices" were accepted by the Office until March 1, 2001.)
- (e) BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION.
 - (1) Field of the Invention.
 - (2) Description of Related Art including information disclosed under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
- (f) BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION.
- (g) BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING(S).
- (h) DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION.
- (i) CLAIM OR CLAIMS (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (j) ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (k) SEQUENCE LISTING (See MPEP § 2424 and 37 CFR 1.821-1.825. A "Sequence Listing" is required on paper if the application discloses a nucleotide or amino acid sequence as defined in 37 CFR 1.821(a) and if the required "Sequence Listing" is not submitted as an electronic document on compact disc).

Content of Specification

- (a) Title of the Invention: See 37 CFR 1.72(a) and MPEP § 606. The title of the invention should be placed at the top of the first page of the specification unless the title is provided in an application data sheet. The title of the invention should be brief but technically accurate and descriptive, preferably from two to seven words may not contain more than 500 characters.
- (b) Cross-References to Related Applications: See 37 CFR 1.78 and MPEP § 201.11.
- (c) Statement Regarding Federally Sponsored Research and Development: See MPEP § 310.
- (d) Incorporation-By-Reference Of Material Submitted On a Compact Disc: The specification is required to include an incorporation-by-reference of electronic documents that are to become part of the permanent United States Patent and Trademark Office records in the file of a patent application. See 37 CFR 1.52(e) and MPEP § 608.05. Computer program listings (37 CFR 1.96(c)), "Sequence Listings" (37 CFR 1.821(c)), and tables having more than 50 pages of text were permitted as electronic documents on compact discs beginning on September 8, 2000.

Or alternatively, Reference to a "Microfiche Appendix": See MPEP § 608.05(a). "Microfiche Appendices" were accepted by the Office until March 1, 2001.
- (e) Background of the Invention: See MPEP § 608.01(c). The specification should set forth the Background of the Invention in two parts:
 - (1) Field of the Invention: A statement of the field of art to which the invention pertains. This statement may include a paraphrasing of the applicable U.S. patent classification definitions of the subject matter of the claimed invention. This item may also be titled "Technical Field."
 - (2) Description of the Related Art including information disclosed under 37 CFR 1.97 and 37 CFR 1.98: A description of the related art known to the applicant and including, if applicable, references to specific related art and problems involved in the prior art which are solved by the applicant's invention. This item may also be titled "Background Art."
- (f) Brief Summary of the Invention: See MPEP § 608.01(d). A brief summary or general statement of the invention as set forth in 37 CFR 1.73. The summary is separate and distinct from the abstract and is directed toward the invention rather than the disclosure as a whole. The summary may point out the advantages of the invention or how it solves problems previously existent in the prior art (and

Art Unit: 2174

preferably indicated in the Background of the Invention). In chemical cases it should point out in general terms the utility of the invention. If possible, the nature and gist of the invention or the inventive concept should be set forth. Objects of the invention should be treated briefly and only to the extent that they contribute to an understanding of the invention.

- (g) Brief Description of the Several Views of the Drawing(s): See MPEP § 608.01(f). A reference to and brief description of the drawing(s) as set forth in 37 CFR 1.74.
- (h) Detailed Description of the Invention: See MPEP § 608.01(g). A description of the preferred embodiment(s) of the invention as required in 37 CFR 1.71. The description should be as short and specific as is necessary to describe the invention adequately and accurately. Where elements or groups of elements, compounds, and processes, which are conventional and generally widely known in the field of the invention described and their exact nature or type is not necessary for an understanding and use of the invention by a person skilled in the art, they should not be described in detail. However, where particularly complicated subject matter is involved or where the elements, compounds, or processes may not be commonly or widely known in the field, the specification should refer to another patent or readily available publication which adequately describes the subject matter.
- (i) Claim or Claims: See 37 CFR 1.75 and MPEP § 608.01(m). The claim or claims must commence on separate sheet or electronic page (37 CFR 1.52(b)(3)). Where a claim sets forth a plurality of elements or steps, each element or step of the claim should be separated by a line indentation. There may be plural indentations to further segregate subcombinations or related steps. See 37 CFR 1.75 and MPEP § 608.01(i)-(p).
- (j) Abstract of the Disclosure: See MPEP § 608.01(f). A brief narrative of the disclosure as a whole in a single paragraph of 150 words or less commencing on a separate sheet following the claims. In an international application which has entered the national stage (37 CFR 1.491(b)), the applicant need not submit an abstract commencing on a separate sheet if an abstract was published with the international application under PCT Article 21. The abstract that appears on the cover page of the pamphlet published by the International Bureau (IB) of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) is the abstract that will be used by the USPTO. See MPEP § 1893.03(e).
- (k) Sequence Listing. See 37 CFR 1.821-1.825 and MPEP §§ 2421-2431. The requirement for a sequence listing applies to all sequences disclosed in a given application, whether the sequences are claimed or not. See MPEP § 2421.02.

Art Unit: 2174

2. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 19-21 and 40-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Takiguchi (EP000717346A2).

As per independent claim 19, Takiguchi teaches an information providing apparatus for providing a desired information screen by making selection from icons respectively assigned to information screens (page 19, lines 9-20), the icons being group icons respectively assigned to groups each grouping a plurality of information screens (page 19, lines 9-20, *icons represent hierarchical layers that contain groups of icons*), characterized in that the information providing apparatus comprises operation information input means inputted with operation information based on selection operation (page 19, lines 9-20), and switching means for switching a menu screen in an upper layer, on which the group icons are arranged, to a menu screen in a lower layer, on which a predetermined number of icons that belong to a selected one of the group icons are arranged (page 19, lines 9-20), with a predetermined transit screen inserted there between, and the switching means displays an entire screen on which all icons that belong to the selected

Art Unit: 2174

group icon are arranged, on the transit screen, and for thereafter zooming in on the menu screen in the lower layer (page 19, lines 9-20).

As per independent claim 20, Takiguchi teaches an information providing apparatus for providing a desired information screen by making selection from icons respectively assigned to information screens (page 19, lines 9-20), the icons being group icons respectively assigned to groups each grouping a plurality of information screens (page 19, lines 9-20, *icons represent hierarchical layers that contain groups of icons*), characterized in that the information providing apparatus comprises operation information input means inputted with operation information based on selection operation (page 19, lines 9-20), and switching means for switching display between a menu screen on which a predetermined number of icons of information screens that belong to one same group are arranged (page 19, lines 9-20), and the information screen, in response to the operation information, and the switching means displays an entire screen on which all the icons that belong to a group of the information screen are arranged, in response to operation information based on predetermined operation in a state where the information screen is displayed (page 19, lines 9-20).

As per independent claim 21, Takiguchi teaches an information providing apparatus for providing selectively a desired information screen by individual icons respectively assigned to information screens (page 19, lines 9-20), the icons being group icons respectively assigned to groups each grouping a plurality of information screens (page 19, lines 9-20, *icons represent hierarchical layers that contain groups of icons*), characterized in that the information providing apparatus comprises: operation information input means inputted with operation information based on information operation (page 19, lines 9-20); and switching means for switching display

Art Unit: 2174

between a menu screen in an upper layer (page 19, lines 9-20), on which a predetermined number of group icons are arranged, and a menu screen in a lower layer, on which icons that belong to the group of a selected group icon, are arranged, in response to the operation information (page 19, lines 9-20), and the switching means displays an entire screen on which all group icons that belong to the group icon are arranged, in response to predetermined operation in a state where the menu screen in the lower layer is displayed (page 19, lines 9-20).

Claims 40-42 are similar in scope to claims 19-21, respectively, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

5. Claims 13-14, 17, 34-35, and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Matthews III et al. ("Matthews," US# 5677708).

As per independent claim 13, Matthews teaches an information providing apparatus for switching a focus icon on a menu screen displaying a plurality of icons, in response to operation of a selection operation key, and for displaying an information screen of an icon focused in response to operation of a predetermined operation key (column 17, lines 29-46), characterized by comprising: focus area generation means for generating a focus area at a predetermined area on the menu screen (column 17, lines 29-46); and menu screen movement means for moving the menu plurality of icons are arranged, such that a desired icon of the plurality of icons is moved to and focused at the focus area, in response to operation of the selection operation key (column 17, lines 29-46).

As per claim 14, which is dependent on claim 13, Matthews teaches enlarging display means for displaying the focused icon enlarged (column 14, lines 34-40, *i.e.* – *magnification*).

As per independent claim 17, Matthews teaches an information providing apparatus for switching a focus icon in response to operation of a selection operation key and for displaying an information screen of a focused icon in response to operation of a predetermined operation key (column 17, lines 29-46), characterized by comprising enlarging display means for displaying the focused icon enlarged, when the icon is focused (column 14, lines 34-40, *i.e.* – *magnification*).

Claims 34-35 and 38 are similar in scope to claims 13-14 and 17, respectively, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takiguchi (EP000717346A2) further in view of Baker (US006002401A).

As per independent claim 1, Takiguchi teaches an information providing apparatus for providing a desired information screen by making selection from icons respectively assigned to information screens, comprising: operation information input means inputted with operation information based on selection operation (page 19, lines 9-20); and switching means for switching a menu screen on which the icons are arranged, to an information screen of a selected one of the icons, with a predetermined transit screen inserted there between, in response to the

Art Unit: 2174

operation information (page 19, lines 9-20), characterized in that the switching means gradually enlarges the selected icon on the transit screen, to zoom in on the icon (page 19, lines 9-20).

Takiguchi does not disclose that the switching means gradually fades display of the selected icon on the transit screen to switch this display to display of the information screen.

Baker teaches that the switching means gradually fades display of the selected icon on the transit screen to switch this display to display of the information screen (column 10, lines 23-41, *navigating a hierarchy using animated icons*, and column 51, Appendix C, */*Remove to */*, *animation may include fading of an icon*). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teachings of Takiguchi with a means to gradually fade display of a selected icon on a transit screen, as taught by Baker, with the motivation to provide an animated interface for the user (column 9, lines 40-41).

As per independent claim 3, Takiguchi teaches an information providing apparatus for providing a desired information screen by making selection from icons respectively assigned to information screens (page 19, lines 9-20), characterized in that the icons are group icons respectively assigned to groups each grouping a plurality of information screens (page 19, lines 9-20, *icons represent hierarchical layers that contain groups of icons*), the information providing apparatus comprises operation information input means inputted with operation information based on selection operation (page 19, lines 9-20), and switching means for switching a menu screen in an upper layer on which the group icons are arranged, to a first menu screen in a layer lower than a selected group icon (page 19, lines 9-20), with a predetermined first transit screen inserted there between, and the switching means gradually enlarges the selected group icon on the first transit screen, to zoom in onto the group icon (page 19, lines 9-20). Takiguchi does not

Art Unit: 2174

disclose that the switching means gradually fades display of the selected icon onto which the display is zooming in, on the transit screen, to switch the display to display of the first menu screen in the lower layer.

Baker teaches that the switching means gradually fades display of the selected icon on the transit screen to switch this display to display of the information screen (column 10, lines 23-41, *navigating a hierarchy that uses animated icons*, and column 51, Appendix C, */*Remove to */*, *animation may include fading of an icon*). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teachings of Takiguchi with a means to gradually fade display of a selected icon on a transit screen, as taught by Baker, with the motivation to provide an animated interface for the user (column 9, lines 40-41).

As per claim 5, which is dependent on claim 3, the combination of Takiguchi and Baker teach that the group icon in the lower layer has a second menu screen in a much lower layer, on which group icons are further arranged (page 19, lines 9-20, *directory E is a much lower level*), and the switching means switches the first menu screen in the lower layer on which the group icons are arranged, to the second menu screen in the lower layer of the selected group icon (page 19, lines 9-20), with a predetermined second transit screen inserted there between, in response to the operation information, gradually enlarges the selected group icon on the transit screen to zoom in on the group icon (page 19, lines 9-20). Takiguchi does not disclose that the switching means gradually fades display of the group icon onto which the display is zooming in, on the second transit screen, to switch the display to display of the second menu screen in the lower layer.

Baker teaches that the switching means gradually fades display of the group icon onto which the display is zooming in, on the second transit screen, to switch the display to display of the second menu screen in the lower layer (column 10, lines 23-41, *navigating a hierarchy that uses animated icons*, and column 51, Appendix C, */*Remove to */*, *animation may include fading of an icon*).

As per independent claim 7, Takiguchi teaches an information providing apparatus for providing a desired information screen by making selection from icons respectively assigned to information screens (page 19, lines 9-20), comprising: operation information input means inputted with operation information based on selection operation (page 19, lines 9-20); and switching means for switching the information screen to a menu screen on which the icons are arranged (page 19, lines 9-20), with a predetermined transit screen inserted there between, in response to the operation information (page 19, lines 9-20), characterized in that the switching means gradually minifies enlarged display of an icon corresponding to the information screen, to zoom out onto the menu screen from display which has zoomed in on the icon (page 19, lines 24-30). Takiguchi does not disclose that the switching means gradually fades display of the information screen to switch the display of the information screen to display of a corresponding icon.

Baker teaches that the switching means gradually fades display of the information screen to switch the display of the information screen to display of a corresponding icon (column 10, lines 23-41, *navigating a hierarchy that uses animated icons*, and column 51, Appendix C, */*Remove to */*, *animation may include fading of an icon*). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teachings of Takiguchi

Art Unit: 2174

with a means to gradually fade display of an information screen when switching display of information to a corresponding icon, as taught by Baker, with the motivation to provide an animated interface for the user (column 9, lines 40-41).

As per independent claim 9, Takiguchi teaches an information providing apparatus for providing a desired information screen by making selection from icons respectively assigned to information screens (page 19, lines 9-20), characterized in that the icons are group icons respectively assigned to groups each grouping a plurality of information screens (page 19, lines 9-20, *icons represent hierarchical layers that contain groups of icons*), the information providing apparatus comprises operation information input means inputted with operation information based on selection operation (page 19, lines 24-30), and switching means for switching a menu screen in a lower layer on which the group icons are arranged, to a first menu screen in a layer upper than the selected group icon (page 19, lines 24-30), with a predetermined first transit screen inserted there between, and the switching means gradually minifies a group icon corresponding to a menu in the lower layer, to zoom out from the group icon (page 19, lines 24-30). Takiguchi does not disclose that the switching means gradually fades display of the menu screen in the lower layer, to switch the display of the menu screen in the lower layer to display of the group icon corresponding to the menu screen in the lower layer.

Baker teaches that the switching means gradually fades display of the menu screen in the lower layer, to switch the display of the menu screen in the lower layer to display of the group icon corresponding to the menu screen in the lower layer (column 10, lines 23-41, *navigating a hierarchy that uses animated icons*, and column 51, Appendix C, */*Remove to */*, *animation may include fading of an icon*). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the

time the invention was made to modify the teachings of Takiguchi with a means to gradually fade display of the menu screen in the lower layer, as taught by Baker, with the motivation to provide an animated interface for the user (column 9, lines 40-41).

As per claim 11, which is dependent on claim 9, Takiguchi teaches that the group icon in the upper layer has a second menu screen in a much upper layer, on which group icons are further arranged (page 19, lines 9-30), and the switching means switches the first menu screen in the upper layer, on which the group icons are arranged, to the second menu screen in the upper layer of a selected group icon (page 19, lines 9-30), with a predetermined second transit screen inserted there between, in response to the operation information, gradually minifies the selected group icon on the transit screen to zoom out from the group icon (page 19, lines 9-30). Takiguchi does not disclose that the switching means gradually fades display of the first menu screen to switch the first menu screen to a corresponding second menu screen.

Baker teaches that the switching means gradually fades display of the first menu screen to switch the first menu screen to a corresponding second menu screen (column 10, lines 23-41, *navigating a hierarchy that uses animated icons*, and column 51, Appendix C, */*Remove to */*, *animation may include fading of an icon*).

Claims 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, and 32 are similar in scope to claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11, respectively, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

8. Claims 15-16, 18, 36-37, and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takiguchi (EP000717346A2) further in view of Matthews III et al. ("Matthews," US# 5677708).

As per independent claim 15, Takiguchi teaches an information providing apparatus for providing a desired information screen on which the screen by making selection from icons respectively assigned to information screens (page 19, lines 9-20), characterized in that the icons are a plurality of group icons respectively assigned to groups each grouping a plurality of information screens (page 19, lines 9-20, *icons represent hierarchical layers that contain groups of icons*), and the information providing apparatus comprises: operation information input means inputted with operation information based on selection operation (page 19, lines 9-20); and switching means for switching display to a menu screen in a lower layer, which belongs to the group icon moved to the focus area (page 19, lines 9-20). Takiguchi does not disclose a focus area generation means for generating a focus area at a predetermined area on a menu screen in an upper layer in which the group icons are arranged; menu screen movement means for moving the menu screen, on which the plurality of group icons are displayed, to the focus area such that a predetermined group icon among the plurality of group icons is moved to and focused at the focus area.

Matthews teaches a focus area generation means for generating a focus area at a predetermined area on a menu screen in an upper layer in which the group icons are arranged (column 17, lines 29-46); menu screen movement means for moving the menu screen, on which the plurality of group icons are displayed, to the focus area such that a predetermined group icon among the plurality of group icons is moved to and focused at the focus area (column 17, lines 29-46). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teachings of Takiguchi with a means to focus on icons in a menu screen,

as taught by Matthews, with the motivation to provide the user with an intuitive indication of how to select additional menu items (column 4, lines 60-63).

As per claim 16, which is dependent on claim 15, Matthews teaches enlarging display means for displaying the focused icon enlarged (column 14, lines 34-40, *i.e. – magnification*).

As per independent claim 18, Takiguchi teaches an information providing apparatus for providing a desired information screen by making selection from icons respectively assigned to information screens (page 19, lines 9-20), the icons being group icons assigned to groups each grouping a plurality of information screens (page 19, lines 9-20, *icons represent hierarchical layers that contain groups of icons*), and layer switching means for switching display to a menu screen in a lower layer, on which the icons which belong to a group of the focused group icon, in response to operation of an operation key (page 19, lines 9-20). Takiguchi does not disclose a focus switching means for switching a group icon indicating a focus, in response to operation of a selected operation key, on a menu screen in an upper layer on which the group icons are arranged; enlarging display means for displaying a focused icon enlarged.

Matthews teaches a focus switching means for switching a group icon indicating a focus, in response to operation of a selected operation key, on a menu screen in an upper layer on which the group icons are arranged (column 17, lines 29-46); enlarging display means for displaying a focused icon enlarged (column 14, lines 34-40, *i.e. – magnification*). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teachings of Takiguchi with a means to focus on and enlarge icons in a menu screen, as taught by Matthews, with the motivation to provide the user with an intuitive indication of how to select additional menu items (column 4, lines 60-63).

Claims 36-37 and 39 are similar in scope to claims 15-16 and 18, respectively, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Nagahara et al. (US005898435A) teach the use of transit screens in navigating a hierarchy.

Babin et al. (US005945985A) teach gradually zooming and fading elements when navigating a hierarchy.

Inquiries

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jordan S Golinkoff whose telephone number is 703-305-8771. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid can be reached on 703-308-0640. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Jordan Golinkoff
Patent Examiner
May 19 2004

Kristine Kincaid
KRISTINE KINCAID
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100